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FORM	ORM PTO-1390 (Modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER						
(ICDV)		RANSMITTAL LETTER	112740-312				
	DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CI						
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 09/937233							
INTE		TIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DE00/00611	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 1 March 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 23 March 1999			
		NVENTION					
			ELECTRONICALLY PROCESSING P	URCHASING AND SALES			
1 KA	MNSA	ACTIONS					
		T(S) FOR DO/EO/US					
Chr	istian	Rappel					
Appi	icant l	herewith submits to the United Sta	tes Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) th	e following items and other information:			
1.	\boxtimes	This is a FIRST submission of i	tems concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.				
2.			UENT submission of items concerning a filing				
3.	\boxtimes	This is an express request to beg	in national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 37	. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay			
1 1 1	I ⊘ I			19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.			
4. 5.				19th month from the earnest claimed priority date.			
٦.	K2)		ication as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2)) (required only if not transmitted by the Intern	national Purson			
			the International Bureau.	ational Buleau).			
		•	pplication was filed in the United States Recei	(ving Office (RO/LIS)			
6.	\boxtimes		Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)	, ,			
7.		A copy of the International Search		<i>,,,</i> -			
8.				19 (35 H S C 371 (c)(3))			
Ų.	Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)) a. are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).						
				Milonal Bureau).			
		 b. have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. 					
		d. ⊠ have not been made and will not be made.					
9.		A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).					
10.		An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).					
11.		A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).					
12.							
It	ems 1	3 to 20 below concern document	(s) or information included:				
13.	\boxtimes		ment under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.				
14.			ording. A separate cover sheet in compliance v	with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.			
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17.	\boxtimes						
18.		A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.					
19.	\boxtimes	Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail					
20.	\boxtimes	Other items or information:					
		Submission of Drawings - Figur	re 1 on one sheet				

JC16 Rec'd PCT/PTO SEP 2 4 2001 ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/DE00/00611 112740-312 21. The following fees are submitted:. CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) : Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1,000.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but Internation Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$860.00 Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than \$0.00 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). NUMBER FILED NUMBER EXTRA RATE **CLAIMS** 8 - 20 = 0 \$18.00 \$0.00 Total claims 0 \$80.00 \$0.00 2 - 3= x ndependent claims \$0.00 Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS \$860.00 Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28) (check if applicable). \$0.00 **SUBTOTAL** \$860.00 Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than □ 20 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). \$0.00 TOTAL NATIONAL FEE \$860.00 Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). \$0.00 TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED \$860.00 Amount to be: \$ \$ charged X A check in the amount of \$860.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. Please charge my Deposit Account No. in the amount of to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment 02-1818 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. to Deposit Account No. NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive 🔗 7 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status. SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: William E. Vaughan (Reg. No. 39,056) SIGNATURE Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC P.O. Box 1135 William E. Vaughan Chicago, Illinois 60690

NAME

39,056

REGISTRATION NUMBER

September 24, 2001

DATE

JC16 Rec'd PCT/PTO SFP 2 4 2001

BOX PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES ELECTED/DESIGNATED OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY-CHAPTER II

5 **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

APPLICANT:

Christian Rappel

DOCKET NO: 112740-312

SERIAL NO:

GROUP ART UNIT:

EXAMINER:

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO:

PCT/DE00/00611

10 INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE:

1 March 2000

INVENTION:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTRONICALLY

PROCESSING

PURCHASING

AND SALES

TRANSACTIONS

15 Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified International Application before entry

into the National stage before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under 35 U.S.C. §371 as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the Specification of the present application, including the Abstract, with the following Substitute Specification:

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SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTRONICALLY PROCESSING PURCHASING AND SALES TRANSACTIONS BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions, which is referred to as electronic commerce, using public communication networks; in particular, the Internet.

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The practice of using the Internet, which is accessible throughout the world, as a comprehensive information network as well as for ordering or making use of products or services which are made available on it is known.

The processing of the actual payment transaction after the order, i.e., after the initiation of the payment procedure, is problematic.

Singleton, Cash on the Wirehead, BYTE, page 71, volume 20, No. 6, dated June 1995, discloses a number of payment processing methods which are all based on a credit card system and in which various methods are applied for the encrypted transmission of data.

It also already has been proposed to additionally secure the authorization of a payment by making a supplementary confirmation by telephone necessary.

US 5,794,221 discloses a payment method using the Internet. In this publication, first an agreement is made between an Internet provider and the customer and then a corresponding provision is specified between the provider and the seller or service provider. The provider declares in this agreement that he/she will invoice the customer and accept responsibility for the settlement of payments with the seller or service provider. The provider himself/herself provides network access for the customer. The transaction information between the seller and customer is supplied simultaneously to the provider, which then performs the corresponding activities such as invoicing and passing on the received payment. The provider is paid for the use of the provider's services.

In the previously known solution it became apparent that it was an advantage if it was not necessary for the customer to have to communicate his/her account number or similar personal data to the seller, thus preventing an undesired temporary presence of this data set on the Internet which is virtually impossible to control.

However, it has become evident that in a method according to US 5,794,221, disadvantages occur in that the provider has to intervene actively into the proceedings relating to the invoicing and settlement of payment.

30 Furthermore, it is necessary for the customer to be identified with respect to the

provider, during which process it is not possible to prevent third parties being able to read and to make fraudulent use of this sensitive data about the provider.

In view of the above, an object of the present invention is to disclose a method and an apparatus for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions, which is referred to as electronic commerce, using public communications networks, in particular the Internet, the intention being to increase security when accessing a network and making use of services via the network without having to impose security-related functions on the network provider.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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The basic idea of the present invention consists, accordingly, in ordering goods and/or services via the Internet starting from a terminal which is capable of communication and has a display or monitor, in particular a personal computer, via an access node, and electronically paying for these goods and/or services, the terminal which is capable of communication processing the order data transfer via a switching office.

After confirmation of the order, the access to the Internet starting from the switching office is at least briefly interrupted and a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office of the telecommunications network operator is set and/or set up. With the menu-prompted billing procedure, it is then possible to register, with respect to billing, the order within the respective telephone account file relating to the terminal, and later settle payment via the customary processing of the services for the use of the telecommunications network.

It is a defining feature that before the order data or billing data is registered in the telephone account file, a PIN (Personal Identification Number) input together with an authenticity check is carried out.

As a result of the at least brief disabling of the access between the Internet and the switching office, unauthorized access for a third party which has monitored the ordering process can be prevented. Of course, it is also possible to allow the link to exist online and block external access only within the framework which is referred to as a firewall function.

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The order data and billing data are then stored, for example, in a separate memory area of the telephone account file, it then being possible to register supplementary data such as information on the date and/or the specific type of goods or service.

The order data and billing data can be stored in coded form. It is also conceivable to provide for the data to be output on a customary telephone bill in encrypted form; for example, by reference to product or services codes.

Confirmation protocols, which are transferred to the service provider via the Internet in a fashion known per se are created in an automated fashion from the registered and stored order data and billing data. The confirmation protocols do not, however, contain any security-related information; for example, the PIN, a credit card account number or the like.

A data link is established to the telephone data-registering computer, which is generally located in the switching office, is established in the respective switching office after a menu item has been called and authenticated via the personal computer. It is possible also to activate the menu during the online state of the personal computer and access the Internet so that the user is capable, even when accessing a homepage of a service provider, to activate a menu bar and/or open the appropriate menu in order to, if desired, bring about the payment processing, during which care is automatically taken to ensure that the Internet access is interrupted or the firewall protection measure is activated at the relevant moment.

In order to increase security, the order data is firstly loaded onto the terminal, namely the personal computer, via the Internet, and the order is registered at the service provider end. Then, in a separate link, the set of billing data associated with the order is transmitted from the terminal of the memory to the switching office and registered there in a debit file after authenticity checking. The registration of the accounts receivable is then transferred to the service provider together with an identifier as a confirmation.

At the device end, a terminal which is capable of communication and has a display (personal computer) is provided for carrying out the method, the terminal

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being connected to a switching office via the telephone network. The switching office sets up access to an Internet access computer (provider) via an appropriate data line.

The switching office contains an internode module, the internode module converting incoming telephone data when data is transferred between the Internet access computer and the terminal into a format which is suitable for display on, or storage in, the personal computer or terminal, but also transforming data records derived from the Internet data transfer into a switching-office format. The internode module creates, as it were, a symbiosis between telephone traffic and digital data transfer.

Additional features and advantages of the present invention are described in, and will be apparent from, the following Detailed Description of the Invention and Figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTON OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 shows a basic view of the access to the Internet starting from a personal computer in connection with the teachings of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The terminal, in particular a PC 1, is connected to the public telephone network via a suitable modem or an interface. In the relevant supply area, at least one switching office 3 is provided which both sets up call-number-selected links and registers call times for later billing.

A link is established via the switching office 3 to an Internet access computer 4 which is operated by what is referred to as a provider.

The Internet access provider 4 then permits access to the Internet which is illustrated symbolically by the reference symbol 5.

In the switching office there is an internode module 6 which makes it possible for services of conventional telephone systems to be provided with the possibilities of Internet-enabled personal computers. The internode makes it possible for network operators and users to use their existing infrastructure such as leads or switching systems in a systematic fashion for the World Wide Web.

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In particular, in the exemplary embodiment, the order data transfer is processed via the switching office when Internet services are made use of. Such use can be, for example, the ordering of goods or services.

After confirmation of the order, the access from the switching office 3 via the access computer 4, or the access to the Internet, is briefly interrupted or disabled for incoming data in order to optimize security. In the personal computer 1, a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office 3 is then established and/or set up in order then to register, with respect to billing, the order within a corresponding terminal-related telephone account file or to process payment via the customary processing of the services for the use of the telecommunications networks; for example, the call data registration.

Of course, for reasons of security, it is also expedient here to carry out authenticity checking of the user with respect to the personal computer by, for example, inputting and interrogating a PIN. Furthermore, for later verification purposes, the order data and billing data should be stored in a separate memory area of the telephone account file in the switching office or in a computer located there.

The user who has made use of the Internet service via the personal computer 1, then receives, for example with his/her monthly telephone bill, a request to pay for the goods ordered or services provided.

In the method described, the possibility of personal data such as credit card numbers, account information or the like being conducted over the Internet is ruled out. The particular problem with the Internet is that data and information are held and buffered for a relatively long time on various node computers, and also at the providers, and that as a result of the channeling of a multiplicity of information there is always the risk of third parties interrogating data in a selected fashion and making fraudulent use of it.

The order data and billing data which are stored in the switching office 3 or a computer located there are then used for automatically creating a confirmation protocol which is communicated to the service provider via the Internet. This communication can take place directly after the order but also at times of little

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traffic so that only low supplementary costs are incurred for the operator of the public telephone network 2.

In a further exemplary embodiment, a menu item or a menu is activated by the personal computer 1 after the call and authentication confirmation, and a link is established to the switching office; i.e., a data link to the telephone data-registering computer. Of course, the menu also can be activated during the online state of the personal computer and instantaneous access to the Internet, the transmission of order data with the consequent production of billing data being, however, not performed until after the Internet link has been disconnected.

To do this, the order data first can be loaded onto the personal computer 1 over the Internet, and the order registered at the service provider end. The billing data associated with the order is then transmitted, with a separate link, from the personal computer 1 to the switching office 3 and registered in a debit file after further authenticity checking. The confirmation of the accounts receivable registration with the service provider via an identifier is also carried out separately.

The switching-office-end operator, for example the telephone company, performs the settlement of the payment to the service provider or supplier after receipt of payment has been indicated.

The present solution provides the advantage that security-related personal data no longer has to be transferred over the public Internet, providing significant advantages in terms of security during payment transactions and the trust of users and customers in the payment system.

Although the present invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments, those of skill in the art will recognize that changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the hereafter appended claims.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions using public communications networks, wherein an data transfer is processed via a switching office via a personal computer, and the payment for the goods received or services provided is carried out, in a way similar to the production of a telephone bill, via a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office, without it being necessary to transmit security-related data over the Internet.

In the claims:

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On page 9, cancel line 1, and substitute the following left-hand justified heading therefor:

CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-8, without prejudice, and substitute the following claims therefor:

9. A method for electronically processing purchasing and sales
15 transactions using the Internet, wherein goods and services may be ordered via at least one personal computer via an access node, and the goods and services are invoiced and paid for electronically, the method comprising the steps of:

processing, via the personal computer, an order data transfer via a switching office;

20 interrupting, at least briefly, access to the Internet starting from the switching office after confirmation of the order; and

establishing a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office of the telephone network operator in order to register, with respect to billing, the order within a respective terminal-related telephone account file via customary processing of the services for use of the telephone network.

10. A method for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions as claimed in Claim 9, the method further comprising the step of: running a PIN-inputting and PIN-checking mode before the order data and billing data are registered in the telephone account file.

11.	A method for electronically processing purchasing and sales
transactions as	claimed in Claim 9, the method further comprising the step of:
storing	the order data and the billing data in a separate memory area of the
telephone acco	ount file.

12. A method for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the order data and the billing data are stored in coded form.

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13. A method for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions as claimed in Claim 9, the method further comprising the steps of: creating a confirmation protocol in an automated fashion from one of the registered order data and the billing data; and

transferring the confirmation protocol to the service provider via the Internet.

- 14. A method for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions as claimed in Claim 9, the method further comprising the step of: establishing a data link to the telephone data-registering computer in the respective switching office after a menu item has been called and authenticated via the personal computer, wherein it is possible to activate the menu even during an on-line state of the personal computer and access the Internet.
- 15. A method for electronically processing purchasing and sales
 25 transactions as claimed in Claim 9, the method further comprising the steps of:
 loading the order data onto the terminal via the Internet;
 registering the order data at the service provider;
 transmitting the billing data associated with the order, in a separate link,
 from the terminal memory to the switching office;

registering the billing data at the switching office in a debit file after authenticity checking; and

transferring registration of accounts receivable to the service provider with an identifier as a confirmation.

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16. An apparatus for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions using the Internet, wherein goods and services are invoiced and paid for electronically, comprising a terminal which is capable of communication and a display, wherein the apparatus is connected to a switching office via a telephone network, the switching office setting up access to an Internet access computer via a data line, the switching office having an internode module for transforming incoming telephone data when data is transferred between the Internet access computer and the apparatus into a format which is suitable for display and storage in the terminal and for transforming data records derived from the Internet data transfer into a switching-office format, and wherein the apparatus processes order data transfer via the switching office, access to the Internet starting from the switching office being at least briefly interrupted after confirmation of the order, and a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office of the telephone network operator is established in order to register, with respect to billing, the order within a respective terminal-related telephone account file via the customary processing of the services for use of the telephone network.

REMARKS

The present amendment makes editorial changes and corrects typographical errors in the specification, which includes the Abstract, in order to conform the specification to the requirements of United States Patent Practice. No new matter is added thereby. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

In addition, the present amendment cancels original claims 1-8 in favor of new claims 9-16. Claims 9-16 have been presented solely because the revisions by

crossing out and underlining which would have been necessary in claims 1-8 in order to present those claims in accordance with preferred United States Patent Practice would have been too extensive, and thus would have been too burdensome. The present amendment is intended for clarification purposes only and not for substantial reasons related to patentability pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§103, 102, 103 or 112. Indeed, the cancellation of claims 1-8 does not constitute an intent on the part of the Applicants to surrender any of the subject matter of claims 1-8.

Early consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for Applicant

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

Description SPECIFICATION

Method and device for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTRONICALLY PROCESSING PURCHASING AND SALES TRANSACTIONS BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method and a device an apparatus for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions, which is referred to as electronic commerce, using public communication networks, in particular the Internet, as claimed in the preamble of patent claims 1 and 8; in particular, the Internet.

The practice of using the Internet, which is accessible throughout the world, as a comprehensive information network <u>as well as</u> for also ordering or making use of products or services which are made available on it is known.

The processing of the actual payment transaction after the order, i.e., after the initiation of the payment procedure, is problematic.

Singleton, Cash on the Wirehead, BYTE, page 71, volume 20, No. 6, dated June 1995, discloses a plurality number of payment processing methods which are all based on a credit card system and in which various methods are applied for the encrypted transmission of data.

It has also already has been proposed to additionally secure the authorization of a payment by making a supplementary confirmation by telephone necessary.

US 5,794,221 discloses a payment method using the Internet. In said this publication, firstly first an agreement is made between an Internet provider and the customer and then a corresponding provision is specified between the provider and the seller or service provider. The provider declares in this agreement that he he/she will invoice the customer and

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accept responsibility for the settlement of payments with the seller or service provider. The provider himself/herself provides network access for the customer. The transaction information between the seller and customer is supplied simultaneously to the provider, which then performs the corresponding activities such as invoicing and passing on the received payment. The provider is paid for the use of the provider's services.

In the previously known solution it became apparent that it was an advantage if it was not necessary for the customer to have to communicate his his/her account number or similar personal data to the seller, thus preventing an undesired temporary presence of this data set on the Internet which is virtually impossible to control.

However, it has become evident that in a method according to US 5,794,221, disadvantages occur in that the provider has to intervene actively into the proceedings relating to the invoicing and settlement of payment.

Furthermore, it is necessary for the customer to be identified with respect to the provider, during which process it is not possible to prevent third parties being able to read and to make fraudulent use of this sensitive data about the provider.

In view of the above, the an object of the present invention is to disclose a method and a device an apparatus for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions, which is referred to as electronic commerce, using public communications networks, in particular the Internet, the intention being to increase security when accessing a network and making use of services via the network without having to impose security-related functions on the network provider.

The object is achieved according to the invention with a method as defined according to patent claim 1, and with a device for carrying out the method according to the features of patent claim 8.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The basic idea of the <u>present</u> invention consists, accordingly, in ordering goods and/or services by means of <u>via</u> the Internet starting from a terminal which is capable of communication and has a display or monitor, in particular a personal

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computer, via an access node, and electronically paying for these goods and/or services, the terminal which is capable of communication processing the order data transfer via a switching office.

After confirmation of the order, the access to the Internet starting from the switching office is at least briefly interrupted and a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office of the telecommunications network operator is set and/or set up. With the menu-prompted billing procedure, it is then possible to register, with respect to billing, the order within the respective telephone account file relating to the terminal, and later settle payment by means of via the customary processing of the services for the use of the telecommunications network.

It is a defining feature that before the order data or billing data is registered in the telephone account file, a PIN (Personal Identification Number) input together with ehecking, i.e. an authenticity check, is carried out.

As a result of the at least brief disabling of the access between the Internet and the switching office, unauthorized access for a third party which has monitored the ordering process can be prevented. Of course, it is also possible to allow the link to exist online and block external access only within the framework which is referred to as a firewall function.

The order data and billing data are then stored, for example, in a separate memory area of the telephone account file, it then being possible to register supplementary data such as information on the date and/or the specific type of goods or service.

The order data and billing data can be stored in coded form. It is also conceivable to provide for the data to be output on a customary telephone bill in encrypted form, for example, by reference to product or services codes.

Confirmation protocols, which are transferred to the service provider via the Internet in a fashion known per se are created in an automated fashion from the registered and stored order data and billing data. The confirmation protocols do not, however, contain any security-related information; for example, the PIN, a credit card account number or the like.

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A data link is established to the telephone data-registering computer, which is generally located in the switching office, is established in the respective switching office after a menu item has been called and authenticated by means of via the personal computer, it being. It is possible also to activate the menu during the online state of the personal computer and access the Internet so that the user is capable, even when accessing a homepage of a service provider, to activate a menu bar and/or open the appropriate menu in order then to, if desired, to bring about the payment processing, during which care is automatically taken to ensure that the Internet access is interrupted or the firewall protection measure is activated at the relevant moment.

In order to increase security, the order data is firstly loaded onto the terminal, namely the personal computer, via the Internet, and the order is registered at the service provider end. Then, in a separate link, the set of billing data associated with the order is transmitted from the terminal of the memory to the switching office and registered there in a debit file after authenticity checking. The registration of the accounts receivable is then transferred to the service provider together with an identifier as a confirmation.

At the device end, a terminal which is capable of communication and has a display (personal computer) is provided for carrying out the method, said the terminal being connected to a switching office via the telephone network. The switching office sets up access to an Internet access computer (provider) via an appropriate data line.

The switching office contains an internode module, said the internode module converting incoming telephone data when data is transferred between the Internet access computer and the terminal into a format which is suitable for display on, or storage in, the personal computer or terminal, but also transforming data records derived from the Internet data transfer into a switching-office format. The internode module creates, as it were, a symbiosis between telephone traffic and digital data transfer.

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The invention will be explained in more detail by means of an exemplary embodiment and a figure.

Additional features and advantages of the present invention are described in, and will be apparent from, the following Detailed Description of the Invention and Figures.

The figure shows here

BRIEF DESCRIPTON OF THE FIGURES

<u>Figure 1 shows</u> a basic view of the access to the Internet starting from a personal computer in connection with the teachings of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The terminal, in particular a PC 1, is connected to the public telephone network via a suitable modem or an interface. In the relevant supply area, at least one switching office 3 is provided which both sets up call-number-selected links and registers call times for later billing.

A link is established via the switching office 3 to an Internet access computer 4 which is operated by what is referred to as a provider.

The Internet access provider 4 then permits access to the Internet which is illustrated symbolically by the reference symbol 5.

In the switching office there is an internode module 6 which makes it possible for services of conventional telephone systems to be provided with the possibilities of Internet-enabled personal computers. The internode makes it possible for network operators and users to use their existing infrastructure such as leads or switching systems in a systematic fashion for the World Wide Web.

In particular, in the exemplary embodiment, the order data transfer is processed via the switching office when Internet services are made use of. Such use can be, for example, the ordering of goods or services.

After confirmation of the order, the access from the switching office 3 via the access computer 4, or the access to the Internet, is briefly interrupted or disabled for incoming data in order to optimize security. In the personal computer 1, a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office 3 is then established and/or

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set up in order then to register, with respect to billing, the order within a corresponding terminal-related telephone account file or to process payment by means of via the customary processing of the services for the use of the telecommunications networks; for example, the call data registration.

Of course, for reasons of security, it is also expedient here to carry out authenticity checking of the user with respect to the personal computer1 computer by, for example, inputting and interrogating a PIN. Furthermore,

for later verification purposes, the order data and billing data should be stored in a separate memory area of the telephone account file in the switching office or in a computer located there.

The user who has made use of the Internet service via the personal computer 1, then receives, for example with his his/her monthly telephone bill, a request to pay for the goods ordered or services provided.

In the method described, the possibility of personal data such as credit card numbers, account information or the like being conducted over the Internet is ruled out. The particular problem with the Internet is that data and information are held and buffered for a relatively long time on various node computers, and also at the providers, and that as a result of the channeling of a multiplicity of information there is always the risk of third parties interrogating data in a selected fashion and making fraudulent use of it.

The order data and billing data which are stored in the switching office 3 or a computer located there are then used for automatically creating a confirmation protocol which is communicated to the service provider via the Internet. This communication can take place directly after the order but also at times of little traffic so that only low supplementary costs are incurred for the operator of the public telephone network 2.

In a further exemplary embodiment, a menu item or a menu is activated by the personal computer 1 after the call and authentication confirmation, and a link is established to the switching office, i.e., a data link to the telephone data-registering computer. Of course, the menu ean also can be activated during the online state of

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the personal computer and instantaneous access to the Internet, the transmission of order data with the consequent production of billing data being, however, not performed until after the Internet link has been disconnected.

To do this, the order data <u>first</u> can firstly be loaded onto the personal computer 1 over the Internet, and the order registered at the service provider end. The billing data associated with the order is then transmitted, with a separate link, from the personal computer 1 to the switching office 3 and registered in a debit file after further authenticity checking. The confirmation of the accounts receivable registration with the service provider by means of <u>via</u> an identifier is also carried out separately.

The switching-office-end operator, for example the telephone company, performs the settlement of the payment to the service provider or supplier after receipt of payment has been indicated.

The present solution provides the advantage that security-related personal data no longer has to be transferred over the public Internet, providing significant advantages in terms of security during payment transactions and the trust of users and customers in the payment system.

Patent Claims Although the present invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments, those of skill in the art will recognize that changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the hereafter appended claims.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a method and a device A method and apparatus for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions using public communications networks. An order, wherein an data transfer is processed via a switching office (3) by means of via a personal computer(1). The, and the payment for the goods received or services provided is carried out, in a way similar to the production of a telephone bill, by means of via a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office, without it being necessary to transmit security-related data over the Internet(5).

10 Figure

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BOX PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES ELECTED/DESIGNATED OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY-CHAPTER II

SUBMISSION OF DRAWINGS

APPLICANT:

Christian Rappel

DOCKET NO.:

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/DE00/00611

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE:

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INVENTION:

METHOD AND

APPARATUS

FOR ELECTRONICALLY

PROCESSING PURCHASING AND SALES TRANSACTIONS

fReg. No. 39,056)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant herewith submits one sheet (Fig. 1) of drawings for the above-

referenced PCT application.

Respectfully submitted,

illiam E. Vaughan

Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC

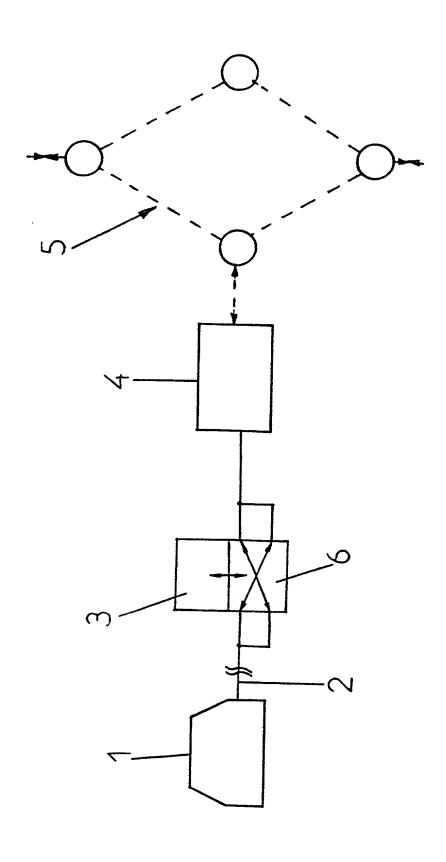
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Description

Method and device for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions

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The invention relates to a method and a device for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions, which is referred to as electronic commerce, using public communication networks, in particular the Internet, as claimed in the preamble of patent claims 1 and 8.

The practice of using the Internet, which is accessible throughout the world, as a comprehensive information network for also ordering or making use of products or services which are made available on it is known.

The processing of the actual payment transaction after the order, i.e. after the initiation of the payment procedure, is problematic.

Singleton, Cash on the Wirehead, BYTE, page 71, volume 20, No. 6, dated June 1995, discloses a plurality of payment processing methods which are all based on a credit card system and in which various methods are applied for the encrypted transmission of data.

It has also already been proposed to additionally secure the authorization of a payment by making a supplementary confirmation by telephone necessary.

US 5,794,221 discloses a payment method using the Internet. In said publication, firstly an agreement is made between an Internet provider and the customer and then a corresponding provision is specified between the provider and the seller or service provider. The provider declares in this agreement that he will invoice the customer and

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accept responsibility for the settlement of payments with the seller or service provider. The provider himself provides network access for the customer. The transaction information between the seller and customer is supplied simultaneously to the provider, which then performs the corresponding activities such as invoicing and passing on the received payment. The provider is paid for the use of the provider's services.

In the previously known solution it became apparent that it was an advantage if it was not necessary for the customer to have to communicate his account number or similar personal data to the seller, thus preventing an undesired temporary presence of this data set on the Internet which is virtually impossible to control.

that in a method evident become it has However, according to US 5,794,221, disadvantages occur in that provider has to intervene actively proceedings relating to the invoicing and settlement of payment. Furthermore, it is necessary for the customer to be identified with respect to the provider, during which process it is not possible to prevent third parties being able to read and to make fraudulent use of this sensitive data about the provider.

In view of the above, the object of the invention is to disclose a method and a device for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions, which is referred to as electronic commerce, using public communications networks, in particular the Internet, the intention being to increase security when accessing a network and making use of services via the network without having to impose security-related functions on the network provider.

The object is achieved according to the invention with a method as defined according to patent claim 1, and

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with a device for carrying out the method according to the features of patent claim 8.

The basic idea of the invention consists accordingly in ordering goods and/or services by means of the Internet is capable which terminal starting from a communication display or monitor, and has а particular a personal computer, via an access node, and electronically paying for these goods and/or services, is capable of communication terminal which processing the order data transfer via a switching office.

After confirmation of the order, the access to the Internet starting from the switching office is at least briefly interrupted and a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office of the telecommunications network operator is set and/or set up. With the menu-prompted billing procedure, it is then possible to register, with respect to billing, the order within the respective telephone account file relating to the terminal, and later settle payment by means of the customary processing of the services for the use of the telecommunications network.

It is a defining feature that before the order data or billing data is registered in the telephone account file, a PIN (Personal Identification Number) input together with checking, i.e. authenticity check, is carried out.

As a result of the at least brief disabling of the access between the Internet and the switching office, unauthorized access for a third party which has monitored the ordering process can be prevented. Of course, it is also possible to allow the link to exist online and block external access only within the framework which is referred to as a firewall function.

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The order data and billing data are then stored, for example, in a separate memory area of the telephone account file, it then being possible to register supplementary data such as information on the date and/or the specific type of goods or service.

The order data and billing data can be stored in coded form. It is also conceivable to provide for the data to be output on a customary telephone bill in encrypted form, for example by reference to product or services codes.

Confirmation protocols, which are transferred to the service provider via the Internet in a fashion known per se are created in an automated fashion from the registered and stored order data and billing data. The confirmation protocols do not, however, contain any security-related information, for example the PIN, a credit card account number or the like.

A data link is established to the telephone dataregistering computer, which is generally located in the switching office, is established in the respective switching office after a menu item has been called and authenticated by means of the personal computer, it being possible also to activate the menu during the online state of the personal computer and access the Internet so that the user is capable, even accessing a homepage of a service provider, to activate a menu bar and/or open the appropriate menu in order bring about the desired, to if processing, during which care is automatically taken to ensure that the Internet access is interrupted or the firewall protection measure is activated the relevant moment.

In order to increase security, the order data is firstly loaded onto the terminal, namely the personal computer, via the Internet, and the order is registered at the service provider end. Then, in a separate link, the

set of billing data associated with the order is transmitted from the terminal of the memory to the switching office and registered there in a debit file after authenticity checking. The registration of the accounts receivable is then transferred to the service provider together with an identifier as a confirmation.

At the device end, a terminal which is capable of communication and has a display (personal computer) is provided for carrying out the method, said terminal being connected to a switching office via the telephone network. The switching office sets up access to an Internet access computer (provider) via an appropriate data line.

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The switching office contains an internode module, said internode module converting incoming telephone data when data is transferred between the Internet access computer and the terminal into a format which is suitable for display on or storage in the personal computer or terminal, but also transforming data records derived from the Internet data transfer into a switching-office format. The internode module creates, as it were, a symbiosis between telephone traffic and digital data transfer.

The invention will be explained in more detail by means of an exemplary embodiment and a figure.

30 The figure shows here a basic view of the access to the Internet starting from a personal computer.

The terminal, in particular a PC 1, is connected to the public telephone network via a suitable modem or an interface. In the relevant supply area, at least one switching office 3 is provided which both sets up call-number-selected links and registers call times for later billing.

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A link is established via the switching office 3 to an Internet access computer 4 which is operated by what is referred to as a provider.

5 The Internet access provider 4 then permits access to the Internet which is illustrated symbolically by the reference symbol 5.

In the switching office there is an internode module 6 which makes it possible for services of conventional telephone systems to be provided with the possibilities of Internet-enabled personal computers. The internode makes it possible for network operators and users to use their existing infrastructure such as leads or switching systems in a systematic fashion for the World Wide Web.

In particular, in the exemplary embodiment, the order data transfer is processed via the switching office when Internet services are made use of. Such use can be, for example, the ordering of goods or services.

After confirmation of the order, the access from the switching office 3 via the access computer 4, or the access to the Internet, is briefly interrupted or 25 optimize order to disabled for incoming data in security. In the personal computer 1, a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office 3 established and/or set up in order then to register, order billing, the to respect 30 corresponding terminal-related telephone account file to process payment by means of the customary services for use the the processing of telecommunications networks, for example the call data 35 registration.

Of course, for reasons of security, it is also expedient here to carry out authenticity checking of

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the user with respect to the personal computer1 by, for example inputting and interrogating a PIN. Furthermore,

for later verification purposes, the order data and billing data should be stored in a separate memory area of the telephone account file in the switching office or in a computer located there.

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The user who has made use of the Internet service via the personal computer 1, then receives, for example with his monthly telephone bill, a request to pay for the goods ordered or services provided.

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In the method described, the possibility of personal data such as credit card numbers, account information or the like being conducted over the Internet is ruled out. The particular problem with the Internet is that data and information are held and buffered for a relatively long time on various node computers, and also at the providers, and that as a result of the channeling of a multiplicity of information there is always the risk of third parties interrogating data in a selected fashion and making fraudulent use of it.

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The order data and billing data which are stored in the switching office 3 or a computer located there are then used for automatically creating a confirmation protocol which is communicated to the service provider via the Internet. This communication can take place directly after the order but also at times of little traffic so that only low supplementary costs are incurred for the operator of the public telephone network 2.

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In a further exemplary embodiment, a menu item or a menu is activated by the personal computer 1 after the call and authentication confirmation, and a link is established to the switching office, i.e. a data link to the telephone data-registering computer. Of course, the menu can also be activated during the online state of the personal computer and instantaneous access to the Internet,

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the transmission of order data with the consequent production of billing data being however, not performed until after the Internet link has been disconnected.

To do this, the order data can firstly be loaded onto the personal computer 1 over the Internet, and the order registered at the service provider end. The billing data associated with the order is then transmitted, with a separate link, from the personal computer 1 to the switching office 3 and registered in a debit file after further authenticity checking. The confirmation of the accounts receivable registration with the service provider by means of an identifier is also carried out separately.

The switching-office-end operator, for example the telephone company, performs the settlement of the payment to the service provider or supplier after receipt of payment has been indicated.

The present solution provides the advantage that security-related personal data no longer has to be transferred over the public Internet, providing significant advantages in terms of security during payment transactions and the trust of users and customers in the payment system.

Patent Claims

A method for electronically processing purchasing 1. and sales transactions using public communications networks, in particular the Internet (5), goods and/or services being ordered by means of at least one terminal (1) which is capable of communication and has a display, in particular a computer, via an access node (4), and these goods and/or services being invoiced and paid electronically, characterized in that the at least one terminal which is capable of communication and has a display processes the order data transfer via a switching office (3), the access to the Internet starting from the switching office being least briefly interrupted or disabled after confirmation of the order and a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office of the operator being established telephone network and/or set up in order to register, with respect order within the billing, the terminal-related telephone account file by means of the customary processing of the services for the use of the telephone network.

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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, before the order data and billing data are registered in the telephone account file, a PIN-inputting and PIN-checking mode runs.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the order data and billing data are stored in a separate memory area of the telephone account file.

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4. The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the order data and billing data are stored in coded form.

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- 5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a confirmation protocol is created in an automated fashion from the registered order data or billing data and is transferred to the service provider via the Internet.
- 6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a data link to the telephone data-registering computer is established in the respective switching office after a menu item has been called and authenticated by means of the terminal which is capable of communication, in particular a personal computer, it being possible to activate the menu even during the online state of the personal computer and access the Internet.
 - The method as claimed in one of the preceding 7. claims, characterized in that firstly the order data is loaded onto the terminal via the Internet is registered at the service the order subsequently the billing provider and associated with the order is transmitted, separate link, from the terminal memory to the switching office and registered there in a debit the authenticity checking and after accounts is receivable the of registration transferred to the service provider identifier as a confirmation.
- 30 A device for carrying out the method as claimed in 8. one of claims 1 to 7, having a terminal which is capable of communication and has a display, in particular a personal computer, which is connected to a switching office via the telephone network, 35 the switching office setting up access data line, access computer via а Internet characterized in that the switching office (3) has

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an internode module (6), said internode module (6) transforming incoming telephone data when data is transferred between the Internet

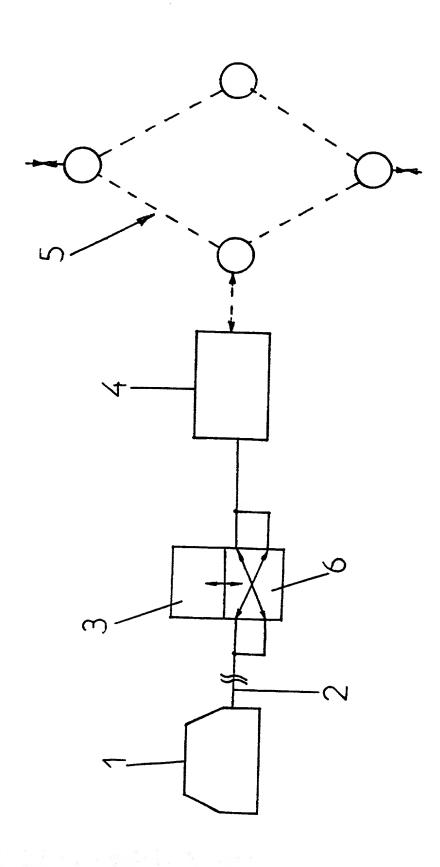
access computer (4) and the terminal (1) into a format which is suitable for display on or storage in the terminal (1), and transforming data records derived from the Internet data transfer into a switching-office format.

Abstract

Method and device for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions

The invention relates to a method and a device for electronically processing purchasing and sales transactions using public communications networks. An order data transfer is processed via a switching office (3) by means of a personal computer (1). The payment for the goods received or services provided is carried out, in a way similar to the production of a telephone bill, by means of a menu-prompted billing access to the switching office, without it being necessary to transmit security-related data over the Internet (5).

Figure



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Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application Erklärung Für Patentanmeldungen Mit Vollmacht

German Language Declaration

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Verfahren Vorrichtung und elektronischen Abwicklung von Kauf- und Verkaufshandlungen

deren Beschreibung

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Ich bestätige hiermit, dass ich den Inhalt der obigen Patentanmeldung einschliesslich der Ansprüche durchgesehen und verstanden habe, die eventuell durch einen Zusatzantrag wie oben erwähnt abgeändert wurde.

Ich erkenne meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung irgendwelcher Informationen, die für die Prüfung der vorliegenden Anmeldung in Einklang mit Absatz 37, Bundesgesetzbuch, Paragraph 1.56(a) von Wichtigkeit sind.

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My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Method and device for electronically processing buying and selling operations

the specification of which (check one) is attached hereto. was filed on 01.03.2000 PCT international application PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/00611 and was amended on (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35. United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Page 1

		German Langu	age Declaration		
Prior foreign ap Priorität beans		•		Priori	ty Claimed
19913096.5 (Number) (Nummer)	<u>DE</u> (Country) (Land)	23.03.1999 (Day Month Yo (Tag Monat Ja	ear Filed) hr eingereicht)	X Yes Ja	□ No Nein
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prozessordnung 120, den Vorz dungen und fall dieser Anme amerikanischer Paragraphen de der Vereinigten erkenne ich ge Paragraph 1.56 Informationen a der früheren An	n Patentanmeldung la es Absatzes 35 der Zin Staaten, Paragraph emäss Absatz 37, Bu S(a) meine Pflicht zur an, die zwischen dem nmeldung und dem nati Anmeldedatum die	aten, Paragraph eführten Anmel- jedem Anspruch einer früheren aut dem ersten rilprozeßordnung 122 offenbart ist, ndesgesetzbuch, Offenbarung von Anmeldedatum onalen oder PCT	Code. §120 of an below and, insofar	y United States a as the subject malication is not displication in the man of Title 35, Urage the duty to fined in Title 37, (a) which occured application and the	atter of each of the closed in the prior anner provided by hited States Code, disclose material Code of Federal between the filing e national or PCT
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(Application Serial N (Anmeldeseriennum	(*	ng Date D,M,Y) neldedatum T, M; J)	(Status) (patentiert, anhängig,		Status) patented, pending,

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Voller Name des zweiten Miterfinders (falls zutreffend):	Full name of second joint inventor, if any:
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